

Message Text

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73-61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-15 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 SPC-03 SCEM-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OVIP, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION

REF: STATE 185869

1. MASATSUNE KATSUNO (INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, FORNMIN) CALLED SCIOFF TO REPEAT MESSAGE SENT TO JAPANESE EMBASSY, WASHINGTON: REGARDLESS OF US DECISION ON MID-NOVEMBER DATE, JAPANESE SIDE MAKING NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING THEN. HOWEVER, JAPANESE WILL DECIDE EXACT DATE FOR MEETING AFTER RECEIVING OUR REPLY.

2. WHEN SCIOFF CALLED ON KATSUNO SEPTEMBER 20, HE STATED HE WAS DRAFTING JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR AGENDA BUT NEEDED CLEARANCE FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. SEEMING DISMAYED AT LATENESS OF "EARLY OR MID-OCTOBER" DATE FOR US REPLY TO JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR DATE OF MEETING, HE MENTIONED ORIGINAL JAPANESE PLAN FOR PRELIMINARY MEETING IN MID-OCTOBER. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR, IF THE NEW CEQ CHAIRMAN FOUND THAT MORE CONVENIENT.

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3. KATSUNO SAID THAT, SINCE SUMMIT MEETING LAST AUGUST, NO

FURTHER INTER-MINISTERIAL TALKS HAD BEEN HELD ON THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT. IF WE WISHED, HOWEVER, THAT TOPIC COULD BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA AND CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MINISTRIES STARTED, HE SAID.

4. (EMBASSY COMMENT) SCIOFF'S IMPRESSION IS THAT KATSUNO EXPECTS MEETING TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL 1974. KOICHI BABA (HEAD, INTER-NATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY), DIRECTOR OF MAIN GOJ AGENCY WITH WHICH KATSUNO MUST COORDINATE AGENDA, IS ALSO STILL WORKING ON A "TENTATIVE DRAFT AGENDA."
INGERSOLL

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